

School of Social Sciences and Humanities



ANTH 102
Survey of World Prehistory
Winter 2026
3 Credits

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR	Dr. Victoria Castillo	OFFICE HOURS	Wednesdays 3-4 pm
OFFICE	A2505	CLASSROOM	A2801
E-MAIL	vcastillo@yukonu.ca	CLASS TIME	T/Th 1:00 pm – 2:20 pm
TELEPHONE	867-456-8615	CRN	20058
Liberal Arts office: Ayamdigut Campus A2501, liberalarts@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770			

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a broad review of the human prehistory of the world, from the emergence of the genus Homo, through to the development of the state as a social formation throughout the world. Course topics will include the evolution of primates and Homo sapiens, the human colonization of the continents in the Paleolithic, the intensification of technologies in the Mesolithic, the origins of agriculture, concentrated settlements and cities in the Neolithic, and the emergence of the state as a social formation throughout the world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

First year standing in Liberal Arts.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Find course transfer information at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/>

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Have a broad understanding of the evolutionary history of the Genus Homo
- Understand the evidence for and theories of explanation of the global spread of the Genus Homo
- Have specific understanding of technological developments of the Paleolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods

- Understand the shared features and diverse expressions of State-based societies in terms of their origin, growth, decay, and collapse
- Gain a worldwide perspective on human history over the past 100,000 years.

COURSE FORMAT

Delivery format

This course is delivered on campus, in person. Students are expected to attend class and may be required to complete assignments and/or activities online or individually. There may be no facility for including students at a distance.

Workload

It is expected that this course will require 9-12 hours/week of homework and additional reading. You will be asked to read 30-40 pages per week. It is important to note that the time required for successful course completion will vary by individual.

EVALUATION

Engagement and Participation

All students will be expected to attend and actively participate in in-class discussions and activities, as assigned by the instructor. The material covered in the classroom is cumulative in nature, and missing classes may put students at a disadvantage. Attendance and participation will account for 15% of the student's final grade.

Presentation Assignment - Digital News Assignment

Find a recent (within the last 2 years) news article that discusses a discovery, excavation, or study related to the prehistory of a specific region or location. This could include, but is not limited to, the following topics:

- Fossil discoveries (e.g., human ancestors, extinct animals)
- Archaeological sites and excavations (e.g., cave paintings, stone tools, ancient settlements)
- Advances in dating methods or new technologies used in prehistoric studies
- Prehistoric climate change, migration patterns, or human evolution

Students will post the article to Moodle two days before the presentation and will present a 5-minute summary of the article to the class using PowerPoint slides. Information will be provided in class. This is worth 20% of the student's final grade.

Midterm and Final Exam

Students will write two midterms throughout the semester. These will be based on your textbook and my lectures and are composed of multiple choice, true or false, and short answer questions. Each midterm is worth 20% of the student's final grade. Students will also write a final exam with the

same format as the midterms that is worth 30% of the student's final grade. The midterms and final are not cumulative.

Exam

Engagement and Participation	15%
Digital News Assignment	15%
Midterms x 2 (20% Each)	40%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

Fagan, Brian M. and Nadia Durrani. 2023. *People of the Earth: An Introduction to World Prehistory*, 16th edition. New York: Routledge.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed. Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

In this course, our primary focus is to cultivate an equitable, inclusive, and accessible learning community that emphasizes individual critical thinking and problem-solving skills. To ensure a fair and consistent learning experience for all students, the use of advanced AI tools such as ChatGPT or Dall-E 2 is strictly prohibited for all academic (written/coding/creative/etc.) work, assignments, and assessments in this course. Each student is expected to complete all tasks without substantive assistance from others, including AI tools.

Any use of AI tool in your academic work may result in academic penalties and be considered an act of cheating and a violation as outlined in the relevant sections of Yukon University's Academic

Regulations & Procedures. For further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities see: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact Accessibility Services for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE - Readings may change

Date/Week	Topic	Required Readings
Week 1 January 6 & 8	Welcome / Origins / Archaic Humans	Chapter 2; Chapter 3 (28 pages)
Week 2 January 13 & 15	Archaic Humans Cont. / Diaspora Begins	Chapter 3 (28 pages) & Chapter 4 (21 pages)
Week 3 January 20 & 22	Diaspora Begins Cont. / Europe & Eurasia	Chapter 4 (21 pages) / Chapter 5 (23 pages)
Week 4 January 27 & 29	The First Americans	Chapter 6 (23 pages)
Week 5 February 3 & 5	After the Ice: 10,000 BC (12,000 BP) / Agriculture and Animal Domestication	Chapter 7 (18 pages) & Chapter 8 (16 pages)
Week 6 February 10 & 12	<i>Assessment 1</i> / Food Production in Southwest Asia	Chapter 9 (14 pages)
Week 7 February 17 & 19	Food Production in Southwest Cont. – <i>Heritage Day No Classes Feb. 19th</i>	Chapter 9 (14 pages)
Week 8 February 24 & 26	First European Farmers / First Farmers in Egypt and Tropical Africa	Chapter 10 (14 pages) & Chapter 11 (8 pages)
Week 9 March 3 & 5	Early Farmers in Asia and the Pacific / Early Farmers in the Americas	Chapter 12 (16 pages) & Chapter 13 (28 pages)
Week 10 March 10 + 12	<i>Winter Reading Week - No Classes March 6th - 16th</i>	
Week 11 March 17 & 19	<i>Assessment 2</i> / The Development of States	Chapter 14 (15 pages)
Week 12 March 24 & 26	Early States in Southwest Asia / Egypt, Nubia, and Tropical Africa	15 (15 pages) & Chapter 16 (26 pages)
Week 13 March 31 & April 2	Early States in South and Southeast Asia / Early Chinese States	Chapter 17 (18 pages) & Chapter 18 (9 pages)
Week 14 April 7 & 9	Hittites, Minoans, and Mycenaeans / Europe Before the Romans	Chapter 19 (14 pages) & Chapter 20 (15 pages)
Week 15 April 14 & 16	Mesoamerican States / Andean States	Chapter 21 (30 pages) & Chapter 22 (25 pages)

